United Nations E/1999/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.:General
15 January 1999

Original: English

Organizational session for 1999
20 January, 2–5 February and
6 and 7 May 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.
5. Review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.
6. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
7. Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy.
8. Elections, nominations and confirmations.

Annotations

1. Election of the Bureau

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that each year at the commencement of its 1st meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 1999 is given in the annex below. According to the rotation of the office of President among the regional groups, the President for 1999 should be the representative of a member of the Western European and other States group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the other four regional groups.

99-00893 (E) 150199

The President and the Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each Vice-President.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 20 January 1999 for the election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

The attention of the Council is drawn to annex II to General Assembly resolution 48/162, in particular section D, which sets out the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the indications therein and with other relevant legislative decisions, including, in particular, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

In its decision 1997/322 on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council requested the Secretary-General to brief delegations, during its organizational session for 1999, on relevant issues considered at the second regular session of 1998 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

3. Basic programme of work of the Council

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1999 and 2000 prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1999 and 2000 (E/1999/1)

4. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

In its resolution 1998/49, the Council decided to consider before the end of its organizational session in February 1999, the reports of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and on the joint exploratory review of cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the consolidated report on the outcomes of the functional commissions of the Council in 1998.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (A/53/137–E/1998/66)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint exploratory review of cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions (E/1998/61)

Consolidated report on the outcomes of the functional commissions of the Council in 1998 (E/1999/3)

5. Review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

In its decision 1998/300, the Council decided to continue consideration, at its organizational session for 1999, of the issue of the review of the distribution of seats in the Executive Board of the World Food Programme with a view to arriving at a recommendation to be submitted to the General Assembly and to postpone action on the draft resolution entitled "Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme (E/1998/L.51) to its organizational session for 1999.

6. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

In its decision 1998/302, the Council decided to postpone to its organizational session for 1999 consideration of the note verbale dated 13 August 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and of the draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Documentation

Note verbale dated 13 August 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/1998/97)

Draft decision entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (E/1998/L.53)

7. Work programme for the Committee for Development Policy

In its resolution 1998/46 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council adopted, *inter alia*, the text contained in annex I, section B, thereto, in which it was stated that the Council should decide on an appropriate work programme for the Committee for Development Policy. It was also stated that in January/February of each year, the Council, at the time of deciding the themes for its substantive session, should advise the Committee about the theme(s) to be considered at the Committee's annual session, not to exceed five working days, to be held in April/May.

In its resolution 1998/39, the Council noted that it would discuss the work programme of the Committee for Development Policy during its organizational session for 1999 and in that regard stressed the need for the Committee to include in its report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for designation of the least developed countries and consideration of the work of all relevant international agencies on the vulnerability of small States.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General regarding items for consideration by the Committee for Development Policy at its 1999 session (E/1999/4)

8. Elections, nominations and confirmations

The Council will hold elections postponed from previous sessions to fill vacancies in its subsidiary bodies. The vacancies will be listed in a separate document. The Council will also confirm the representatives on functional commissions of the Council nominated by Governments since the close of the resumed substantive session of 1998.

Annex

Members of the Economic and Social Council in 1999

	Term expires on 31 December
Algeria	2000
Belarus	2000
Belgium	2000
Bolivia	2001
Brazil	2000
Bulgaria	2001
Canada	2001
Cape Verde	1999
Chile	1999
China	2001
Colombia	2000
Comoros	2000
Cuba	1999
Czech Republic	2001
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2001
Denmark	2001
Djibouti	1999
El Salvador	1999
France	1999
Gambia	1999
Germany	1999
Guinea-Bissau	2001
Honduras	2001
Iceland	1999
India	2000
Indonesia	2001
Italy	2000
Japan	1999
Latvia	1999
Lesotho	2000
Mauritius	2000
Mexico	1999
Morocco	2001
Mozambique	1999
New Zealand	2000
Norway	2001
Oman	2000
Pakistan	2000
Poland	2000
Republic of Korea	1999
Russian Federation	2001
Rwanda	2001
Saint Lucia	2000
Saudi Arabia	2001
Sierra Leone	2000

Spain 1999
Sri Lanka 1999
Syrian Arab Republic 2001
Turkey 1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 2001
United States of America 2000
Venezuela 2001
Viet Nam 2000
Zambia 1999